

Today's News - Tuesday, September 30, 2008

- Even with "nagging caveats," Weinstein finds a new book about the history of "Architectural Graphic Standards" to be "a rare and valuable penetration into a slice of this architectural bible."
- An urbanist calls for Mumbai's largest slum is actually "a successful settlement with a vibrant community and economy" and should be a model that should be replicated, not redeveloped "as a weak cover-up for a land grab of the worst kind."
- King talks to Piano about his towering plans for San Francisco that will never be, and gives thumbs-up to award winners.
- Cheek gives thumbs-up to the thoughtful designs of Seattle's light rail stations (with pix to prove it).
- Dubai as a tabula rasa where architects "ply their craft, writ large" - including Canadians.
- An in-depth look at the "compelling ethic behind deconstruction" instead of demolition.
- Spring visits Corbu's "machine for living in" in Marseille.
- Saffron cheers a competition that encourages architects to "think outside the supermarket box."
- Bayley muses on what makes a perfect art gallery, and the "continuing appeal of the big white space."
- A Dubai architect has a fresh take on mosque architecture: "Whatever was done before is nice but do not keep copying it."
- Diamond + Schmitt and "the architecture of usefulness" (they don't do "crash architecture").
- Q&A day: McDonough on why designers have to stay optimistic.
- Cruz on his social concerns.
- Lyn Rice on being an upstart and his strategy for lean times.
- In Pakistan, architecture can be a rewarding field for creative and hard working students, but there's a need for architectural institutes.
- NYT's Design Fall 2008: pages and pages of insights and eye candy - you pick.
- Rosenbaum on MoMA show that's "fallen below the critical radar," and what might (or might not) be the future of Nouvel tower.
- DesignPhiladelphia about to launch - including a prefab show of its own.
- Editor's note: We're saddened by the news that the New York Sun is folding today; it was a particular New York voice. Lean times ahead for us all, it seems.

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Book Review: You've Got to Draw the Line Somewhere: A review of "Drafting Culture: a Social History of Architectural Graphic Standards" by George Barnett Johnston. By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow

Op-Ed: Dharavi: India's Model Slum: ...one of the world's biggest slums -- and its most notorious. Look beyond the stereotype, however, and you'll find a successful settlement with a vibrant community and economy. But developers want to raze it all and start again. Urban development consultant Prakash M. Apte says Dharavi is a model that should be replicated, not redeveloped. [images]- PLANetizen

Don't expect a Piano in S.F. skyline: "It's a sad story. ... I loved that project"; 7 San Francisco firms have nabbed 2008 Design Awards from the California Council of the American Institute of Architects. By John King -- Jensen Architects; Leddy Maytum Stacy; EDAA; EHDD; David Baker; Skidmore Owings & Merrill (SOM); SMMW- San Francisco Chronicle

Light rail stations are on the right track: Thoughtful design gives each Link station a personality all its own...it's worth cheering the positive force it's about to be in the urban streetscape...When architecture both enhances and reflects the civilization it serves, it offers double value. By Lawrence W. Cheek [slide show]- Seattle Post-Intelligencer

Where architects bring fantasy to reality: "For architects, Dubai is a tabula rasa, a blank slate"...Money is no object...has attracted architects from around the world, including Canada, to ply their craft, writ large. -- Bregman + Hamann; Hyder Consulting; NORR; Hazel Wong/RMJM; Zeidler Partnership; U+A Consultants - Globe and Mail (Canada)

This Old Recyclable House: Every year, we demolish 250,000 homes and bury the debris. What if all those floors and joists and beams were reused? ...there is a compelling ethic behind deconstruction, one challenging our very standards of profitability and prodding us to rethink how we use all the different kinds of capital we have... -- Building Materials Reuse Association; National Demolition Association; ReBuilding Center - New York Times

Welcome to the machine: Le Corbusier's Unité d'Habitation: As a major exhibition of the great man's works opens in Liverpool, Martin Spring visits this communal 'machine for living in' to see what lessons it has for us [images]- Building (UK)

Food for thought on supermarkets: After a long absence, the neighborhood supermarket is making a comeback in urban places...Only the new arrivals don't look anything like the friendly local grocers we once knew...a competition to encourage architects to think outside the supermarket box comes in the nick of time. By Inga Saffron -- Interface Studio Architects; Agoos Lovera; KSS- Philadelphia Inquirer

What makes the perfect art gallery? On the eve of the opening of the new Saatchi Gallery...a look at the continuing appeal of the big white space...the new Townner Gallery in Eastbourne is perhaps even more interesting... By Stephen Bayley -- Terence Conran; Max Gordon; AHMM; Rick Mather; Zumthor; Herzog & de Meuron; Jørgen Bo/Vilhelm Wohlert; Caruso St John; Stanton Williams - Guardian (UK)

Centimetercube designs energy-efficient mosque: "...we can have other options that are new and belong to us, which are uniquely Dubai. If you want to build an identity you have to look at new ideas. Whatever was done before is nice but do not keep copying it," said Omran Al Owais...- Emirates Business 24|7

Jack Diamond and the architecture of usefulness: "Insight and On Site"...is a hugely refreshing treatise, an uplifting clarion call for architecture -- and cities -- that harness minimal materials for maximum usefulness. -- Diamond + Schmitt- National Post (Canada)

The King of Green Architecture: William McDonough aims to create buildings that produce oxygen, sequester carbon, and produce more power than they use...."I think we have to stay optimistic if we're designers...trying to make the world a better place. So the idea is to say, 'Things could be better if we apply ourselves in different ways.'" [links]- Discover Magazine

Q&A with Teddy Cruz about his social concerns and his projects currently on view from New York to Venice. [slide show, links]- Artkrush

UpStarts: Lyn Rice Architects: "Anticipating a new level of economic sobriety in the US, we need to be able to maintain our design team and offer stability through what could be lean times -- and we want to do it by approaching business as a project itself." -- Astrid Lipka/Lyn Rice/LRA [images]- Architect

Architecture: a rewarding field for creative and hard working students: Pakistan...is under constraints due to the socio-economic disparities...On the basis of the current situation of architectural education in the country in general and Karachi in

[particular there is an urgent need for an architectural education institute that is capable of imparting quality education...- Daily Times \(Pakistan\)](#)

[Design Fall 2008 -- Rawsthorn; Viladas; Hagberg; Bellini; Cloepfil; etc.- New York Times Style Magazine](#)

[MoMA Conquers Curator-Devouring Second Floor, Makes Plans for Nouvel's Mega-Tower: "Here is Every" has fallen below the critical radar. But it's the best of the five deployments of its contemporary forces since the Taniguchi-designed museum expansion opened... By Lee Rosenbaum \[links\]- ArtsJournal](#)

[4th Annual DesignPhiladelphia October 16 - 22, in conjunction with National Design Week- DesignPhiladelphia](#)

[On Heels of MoMA Show, a Prefab Exhibition Opening in Philadelphia: ...a temporary prefab "neighborhood"...will offer an optimistic view of what a revitalized city might look like in the near future. "A Clean Break"...will be a central event of DesignPhiladelphia October 17 to 30- Architectural Record](#)



[-- querkraft architekten: Museum Liaunig, Neuhaus/Suha, Carinthia, Austria](#)
[-- Book: MAD Dinner by Ma Yansong](#)

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